

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an optical line terminal (OLT), the method comprising:

periodically sending a first message to a first optical device connected to an end of a single cable, the first message including a first identifier;

determining whether the first optical device has failed to respond to the first message a predetermined number of times;

sending a second message to the end of the single cable when the first optical device fails to respond the predetermined number of times, the second message having a second identifier that represents a second optical device, the second optical device being connected to the end of the single cable after the first optical device has been physically removed from the end of the single cable;

determining if the second optical device has responded to the second message with the second identifier; and

sending a third message with the first identifier that represents the first optical device when the second optical device fails to respond to a number of second messages.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 and further comprising marking the second identifier as an active identification number when the second optical device responds to the second message.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 and further comprising:  
determining if the first optical device has responded to the third message with the first identifier; and  
marking the first identifier as an active identification number when the first optical device responds to the third message.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 and further comprising:  
determining if the first optical device has responded to the third message with the first identifier; and  
sending the second message with the second identifier that represents the second optical device when the first optical device fails to respond to a number of third messages.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first optical device is an optical network terminal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the second optical device is an optical network terminal.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of servicing a network, the network having a first optical device connected to an end of a single network cable to receive network traffic, the first optical device having a first identifier, the~~ The method of claim 15 and further comprising:

associating ~~[[a]]~~ the second identifier with the end of the single ~~network~~ cable so that the first optical device continues to receive network traffic, the second ~~identifier representing a second optical device that is being~~ a replacement for the first optical device, the second optical device not being connected to the end of the single ~~network~~ cable when the second identifier is associated with the end of the single ~~network~~ cable; and

dispatching a technician to the end of the single ~~network~~ cable to service the first optical device, the first optical device continuing to receive network traffic until the first optical device is disconnected from the ~~network~~ end of the single cable by the technician.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 and further comprising:

removing the first optical device from the end of the single ~~network~~ cable; and installing the second optical device to the end of the single ~~network~~ cable.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 and further comprising:

inspecting the first optical device and determining whether the first optical device can be fixed within a predefined period of time;

fixing the first optical device when the first optical device can be fixed within the predefined period of time;

removing the first optical device from the end of the single ~~network~~ cable when the first optical device can not be fixed within the predefined period of time; and

installing the second optical device to the end of the single ~~network~~ cable after the first optical device has been removed.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 18 wherein the ~~functioning network~~ first optical device is fully functioning.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 18 wherein the ~~functioning network~~ first optical device is only partially functioning.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 and further comprising:

removing the ~~functioning-network~~ first optical device from the end of the single cable after the ~~replacement-network~~ second optical device has been associated to the ~~functioning-network~~ first optical device;

reinstalling the ~~functioning-network~~ first optical device to the end of the single cable if full functionality can be provided with the ~~functioning-network~~ first optical device within a predetermined period of time; and

installing the ~~replacement-network~~ second optical device to the end of the single cable if full functionality can not be provided with the ~~functioning-network~~ first optical device within a predetermined period of time; and

~~alternately sending the network information to the functioning-network device and the replacement-network device until one of the devices receives the network information.~~